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O

Mr. HOLLIS
HIS SPEECH
IN PARLIAMENT,

On Munday the 31. of *January*, 1642.

Upon the delivery of a Message from the House of Commmons, concerning the poore Tradesmens *Petition*.

London, Printed for *C. F.* 1642.

Mr. Hollis

HIS

Speech to the Lords, upon the delivery of a Meſſage from the Houſe *of Commons.*

My Lords,

I Am commanded by the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes of the Commons Houſe, to preſent your Lordſhips with a Petition now delivered into their Houſe, by divers poor Tradeſ-men in and about the Citie of London, containing in the ſame the great want and neceſſitie they and their families are fallen into, through the decay of trading. The means and cauſes that have produced this decay, and the remedies to prevent further miſerie, and revive trading: My Lords, it is a common obſervation, and the experience of former Ages hath made it manifeſt, that when the ſword of warre is unſheathed, famine followes, the greateſt deſtruction of all Common-wealths and Kingdomes, witneſſe the miſerable calamities and troubles that have of late yeares befallen upon *Italy* and Ger-

many. If wee call to minde ancient Hiſtories mentioning the fatall deſtruction of the Eaſterne Empires, wee ſhall finde that the firſt ſtep to their deſolation, hath beene domeſtick diſſention, and home-bred mutinies, upon which hath followed Nationall warres, and the effects of all hath beene famine and peſtilence, which hath given a full period to the utter confuſion of thoſe Kingdomes. If wee pry and ſearch into the ancient Hiſtories of *Italy* and *Rome*, wee ſhall finde the onely deſtruction both of that Kingdome and Citie, hath happened onely by theſe occaſions, the pride and abition of the Popes and Biſhops of that See, uſurping authority to themſelves over the Churches in the Eaſt, produced the warres betweene the Eaſt Vandalls and the Romans, betweene the Eaſt and Weſt Gothes, and the *Italians*, which was the utter deſolation of the City of Rome.

First, by *Allarick* Captaine of the Weſt Gothes.
Secondly by *Adolph* their Captaine.
Thirdly, by *Athila* King of the Hunns.
Fourthly, by *Genſerick* King of the Vandalls.
Fifthly *Odaſar* a German.
Sixthly *Theodericke* and Eaſt Goth.
And laſtly, *Totela Baldevil.*

Theſe

These *Princes* by the ſword and fire, executed the juſt judgements of God upon proud and wicked *Rome*; the originall whereof, was occaſioned by the impurity and uncleanneſſe of the Clergy: and what terrible Famines and grievous peſtilencies followed theſe warres, is likewiſe too manifeſt by Hiſtory; whereas in the beginning when *Rome* firſt began to lift up her head againſt Gods true Religion and his anointed Servants, Kings and Emperours, ſhe had been daſhed and ſuppreſſed, all thoſe bloudy and long warres procured by the Biſhops thereof in all parts of the Chriſtian world had bin prevented and avoyded.

My Lords, I have ſpoken this onely to remember your Lordſhips of the miſeries and calamities that have hapned unto thoſe Nations that have entertained amongſt themſelves diſſenſion and diviſion about the diverſity of worſhip of God in Religion, which alwaies hath proved the root and principall meanes of future deſtruction that now in time while opportunity doth ſerve ſuch occaſions of difference as doe threaten the ſame deſolations to the ſtate wherein we live, and whereof we be a part, may by the wiſedome of this high Court of *Parliament* be prevented and avoyded.

My Lords, if Dearth and Famine bee in a Nation, there can be nothing expected but confuſion

fuſion as well of the rich, as of the poore, It is the Common Proverb, neceſsity hath no law: There is no delaying of preſent neceſsity. *It* is not to be thought that Millions of men, women& children will ſtarve and periſh, ſo long as there is Corn in the Land of *Goſhen*, or in the cuſtody of *Ioſeph*, It is therefore the deſire, my Lords, of the Commons, that as they have compaſsionately conſidered among themſelves this neceſsitated Petition of diſtreſſed Tradeſ-men, and have limited a day certaine for anſwering the ſame, ſo your Lordſhips would bee pleaſed to take the ſame Petition into your conſiderati ons with them, that the petitioners may at the time appointed, receive from both Houſes of parliament, ſuch anſwer from their demands, as may give them full ſatisfaction.

My Lords, under favour, *I* am to ſpeake a word or two of the meanes that have occaſioned the decay in trading, & the remedies to prevent the ſame for future time, and againe renew Trading, the means they conceive is principally want of due execution of Juſtice upon thoſe perſons that have bin the cauſers, and Authors thereof, and then the remedies, due execution of juſtice, without any further protraction of time and the Enacting of ſuch wholſome and good lawes, for the reſtriction of vice, and maintaining of vertue, both in goverment of the Church and State, as ſhall be congruent to the Word of

God

God, and the peace and prosperity of his Sacred Majesty, and all his Kingdoms, as shall be thought meet by the wisedome and policie of this great and High Court of *Parliament*, which I further humbly leave to the grave consideration of this Honourable House.

FINIS.